

Claims

1. A process for the production of vitamin C comprising converting a substrate into vitamin C in a medium using a microorganism belonging to the genus *Ketogulonicigenium*.
- 5 2. The process according to claim 1 wherein the substrate is selected from the group consisting of D-sorbitol, L-sorbose, L-sorbose, L-gulose and L-gulono-gamma-lactone.
3. The process according to claim 1 or 2 for the production of vitamin C comprising contacting a microorganism belonging to the genus *Ketogulonicigenium* with the substrate in a reaction mixture and isolating and purifying vitamin C from the reaction mixture.
- 10 4. A process according to any one of the preceding claims for the production of vitamin C from L-sorbose which comprises contacting a microorganism belonging to the genus *Ketogulonicigenium* with L-sorbose in a reaction mixture and isolating and purifying vitamin C from the reaction mixture.
5. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the  
15 microorganism is selected from *Ketogulonicigenium robustum*, *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare*, or mutants thereof.
6. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of *Ketogulonicigenium robustum* NRRL B-21627, *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* NRRL B-30035, *Ketogulonicigenium*  
20 *vulgare* NRRL B-30036 and *Ketogulonicigenium vulgare* NRRL B-30037.
7. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the process is carried out at a pH of about 4.0 to about 9.0 and at a temperature of about 13 to about 36°C.
8. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the process is  
25 carried out at a pH of about 5.0 to about 8.0 and at a temperature of about 18 to about 33°C.
9. The process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the process is carried out at a L-sorbose concentration of about 2 to about 120 mg/ml.
10. The process according to claim 9, wherein the process is carried out at a L-sorbose  
30 concentration of about 4 to about 100 mg/ml.